WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for enhancing the development of a cellular immune response to a preselected antigen in a mammal comprising exposing ex vivo or in vivo dendritic cells from said mammal to a conjugate comprising said preselected antigen covalently bound to an antibody to DEC-205, and promoting maturation of said dendritic cells ex vivo or in vivo by CD40 ligation.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said preselected antigen is a peptide antigen or a protein antigen.

3. The method of claim 3 wherein said peptide antigen or protein antigen is conjugated to said antibody to DEC-205 by means of a cross-linking agent.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein a light chain or a heavy chain of said antibody to DEC-205, and said peptide antigen or protein antigen, are present on a single polypeptide chain.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said CD40 ligation is achieved by exposing said dendritic cell to an agonistic anti-CD40 antibody.

6. A method for enhancing the development of tolerance to a preselected antigen in a mammal comprising exposing ex vivo or in vivo dendritic cells from said

mammal to a conjugate comprising said preselected antigen covalently bound to an antibody to DEC-205, and preventing maturation of said dendritic cell ex vivo or in vivo.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said preselected antigen is a peptide antigen or a protein antigen.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said peptide or protein is conjugated to said antibody to DEC-205 by means of a cross-linking agent.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein a light chain or a heavy chain of said antibody to DEC-205, and said peptide antigen or protein antigen, are present on a single polypeptide chain.

10. A conjugate for enhanced delivery of a preselected protein or peptide antigen to a dendritic cell, said conjugate comprising said preselected protein or peptide antigen covalently bound to an antibody to DEC-205.

11. The conjugate of claim 10 wherein a light chain or a heavy chain of said antibody to DEC-205, and said peptide antigen or protein antigen, are present on a single polypeptide chain.

12. A method for enhancing the delivery of a preselected molecule into a dendritic cell comprising the steps of preparing a conjugate comprising said preselected molecule and an antibody to DEC-205, and exposing said conjugate to a dendritic cell, wherein said conjugate is delivered into said dendritic cell.